

Professional Drivers

Foundation

Supporting Drivers

The Flysheet

Winter 2020

Congratulations from the

Professional Drivers Foundation!



Well done to you all who have kept working during the pandemic and are now classed as essential workers. We always knew we were essential! However, a special mention has to go to one of the PDF's oldest and most active supporters, Brett's Transport Ltd.

Fenland haulier becomes a hero after 'phenomenal' lockdown work



Bretts Transport Ltd. has been recognised for its work during the coronavirus pandemic by the HGV Heroes initiative. Bretts was included in the scheme launched by the R H A for its efforts during lockdown, such as delivering over 9,000 tonnes of dried pasta to retailers and charities over 12 weeks.

: "The entire team at Bretts has shown resilience and understood the importance of maintaining and keeping supply chains moving whilst working safely and professionally. What a group of Heroes!

Simon Brett has supported the PDF from the very beginning and in the early days allowed us to take over the entire yard, and fleet to hold Training Days. This allowed aspiring HGV drivers to come and sample driving even the newest lorries on the fleet, others to practice reversing and many more learning to rope and sheet.

Sadly, H&S has meant that an event such as this can no longer be insured viably for it to carry on. Roping & sheeting was always popular as was learning to reverse in between two trailers.



This hasn't stopped the support the PDF gets from Brett's Transport who never fail to provide a substantial First Prize for our various PDF Raffles.

**Thank you Bretts
Transport,
You are our Heroes!**

Of course, there are many other PDF Supporter Heroes who have supported us from the very

start and we have to name a few. Sean Pargeter at EP Training. John Comer at Volvo Trucka and of course Truck & Driver and Commercial Motor who all never fail to supply prizes and help whenever we need it.

Big thank you to you all



Professional Drivers Foundation **Christmas Raffle**

Once again it's that time of year and this year we need funds more than ever before after the year from Hell for most of us in one way or another .

Please give generously and remember your donations made last year have saved so many fellow drivers from any further worry or stress. And provided a welcome hug in these hard times.

No matter how much pride we as drivers have it is touching that at least 2 drivers were in tears when calling to thank us for the emergency payment, and both said they didn't realise other drivers still cared.

We still have prizes coming but to date we have
1st Prize: £250 John Lewis Vouchers donated by Bretts Transport
2nd Prize: 35 hrs E-learning online DCPC course.
3rd Prize: 35 hrs E-learning online DCPC course both donated by EP Training.
4th prize: £50 Amazon Vouchers donated by Anon.
Plus 2 Commercial Motor and 4 Truck & Driver subscriptions.

Message our Facebook page for online ticket sales. <https://www.facebook.com/Professional-Drivers-Foundation-119989251405853>

PDF Annual Review

A busy year with a higher than normal flow of claims many of which were successful.

Geographically they ranged from Cornwall to Scotland with a marked number being due to failings in the Universal Credit Scheme.

Requests for help came in for various reasons, sudden illness, being laid off and redundancy and many were Covid related.

We help when the need is urgent. Our normal time frame can be counted in days but we broke our record again this year with a response time of just 3 hours for someone with no money and no food due to a delay in his U.C. payment.

Overall we paid out more than ever before but turned down many because of lack of funds but offered help in other ways.

As always, we are extremely grateful to all our supporters, those who buy raffle tickets as well as those who donate directly to us.

We are also registered for Gift aid and the return from HMRC allows us to pay out one extra claim. All our trustees give their time free and don't claim expenses, this maximises the funds available for paying grants.

Without fail, they always ask us to pass on thanks to YOU all who have donated to make this help possible



Ticking the Gift-Aid box and submitting a mandate really does make a big difference to our income.

By having our own Gift-Aid account with HMRC we eliminate the fees that most online collection agencies charge.

To donate directly to us please go to our web page www.pda-uk.org and follow the link to our Donations page.

HMRC Gift Aid Registered: XT19005

Where it all began

By Eric Wilsher PDF Trustee.

I suppose my interest in lorries started when I used to go out in my friends Dad's Ford D Series reg no: HTM40 in 1956 when I was 9 yrs old. We used to go to Watford market with produce early in the morning in the school holidays. After loading potatoes and carrots in the afternoon from local farmers we would ride back on top of the load. H&S what was that?

At 17 I left a shop job to drive for a local firm delivering paint and wallpaper. They had a wholesale business supplying soap powder crockery, carpets etc. I was told to go to Stoke on Trent to pick up a load of crockery from 3 different suppliers. I had to take the BIG van. I think it was a Morris with sliding doors.

I was told to go A28 to Northampton then A'5 to Tamworth and A51 to Stoke. I stopped for a bacon sandwich at the Aviary cafe on the way and thought I was king of the road being so far from home! I was loaded up by 3 pm and heading home when the A5 was shut by a jackknifed lorry near Hinckley which held me up for an hour. I got back at 8 pm only to be told I wouldn't be going again as I had taken too long.

I left soon after and went to K Watson Ltd on a Paraffin round hoping to progress to lorries. After bagging coal into 28lb bags all summer in 1967 my dreams came true when I was sent to Luton, as a mate, with another driver. When we were out of sight of the yard, we swapped seats and I was then the driver of a 16 ton Ford D1000. But we would both have been sacked if caught.

I remember taking a threepenny piece Morris to Crick with 4 pallets of coal, and it seemed like the slowest vehicle on the MI and struggled to get up the hill at Watford Gap. This little lorry was normally used for Calor gas deliveries so we 'could' have been overloaded a tad. Come September I turned 21 yrs. old so I could legally drive a lorry. The next day I was told to take

an 8-wheel Bedford tipper to a coal yard in Herne Bay. I had never driven an 8-wheeler before or through London. I came across a weight limit and followed the diversion signs only to end up still on the wrong side of the bridge. Eventually I got to the A20 and found my way to my destination.

I managed to tip my load of Coalite and headed back home. I saw a sign saying Dartford Tunnel and headed there hoping to save time. The tunnel cost me 3 shillings [15p] and I was told off for wasting money when I could have crossed the river for free. This was the start of my driving career which lasted for over 50years.

The PDF Promise to you

Requests for help are ALWAYS dealt with confidentially.

We are proud that we never disclose any recipient's details to anyone, even though it may make fundraising so much easier.

It always has been, and so it will remain.

Wanted!

Is there anyone who would volunteer to produce or sponsor printing of The Flysheet for us once a year please?

The wages are non-existent; the co-operation is usually very 'last minute' and the content very hard to come by!

However, the sense of satisfaction after climbing all of the above obstacles is excellent.

If you would be happy to relieve me of my duties please contact me at pat@fenlandtraining.co.uk or call me on 07909 995615.

Where to find the Professional Drivers Foundation

Visit our website at
<http://www.pda-uk.org/>

Where you can read far more about the work we do, our patron Steve Parrish, and even a bit about the Trustees!

You can click on the links to make donations and contact any of us on the contact page.



We have a PDF Facebook page here
<https://www.facebook.com/Professional-Drivers-Foundation-119989251405853/>
where comments are always welcome.

Or you can follow us on Twitter
@PDFandPDA
<https://twitter.com/PDFandPDA>

It's always nice to get feedback bad or good from you all, and we always welcome suggestions or offers of help.

Come and talk to us!



Professional Drivers Foundation,
8 Cheltenham Road East, Gloucester. GL3 1AE